

# VIBRATIONS!



Giacomo Agostini was 75 in June. Is this the best ever picture of him riding a motorcycle?

## July 2017



Triumph Owners M.C.C.

Northants Branch



## Scribblings

The Branch events list has been pretty full over the last couple of months and it will be even more so over the rest of the summer, as you can see from the next page. Where meeting times are not shown in the events list listen out for announcements at club nights, or check our Facebook page for late additions/alterations.

If you've read through the AGM minutes in the July Nacelle you will have seen that the club membership rates go up on 1<sup>st</sup> January. If your membership is due before then and you want to take maximum advantage of the current prices you might wish to consider opting for a 5-year membership instead of the normal 1-year. You can also save another couple of quid off this if you do it on-line.

Some of you still have my old e-mail address in your contact lists – my new address is as below.

Sarge

33 Argyle Street, St.James, Northampton NN5 5LJ  
Tel: 01604-582468

**[New e-mail: Sarge.Northampton@btinternet.com](mailto:Sarge.Northampton@btinternet.com)**



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pin badges are now in stock. £3 each from any member of the branch committee.

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## Membership Renewals

The Branch only sends membership forms off to HQ for processing twice a month (normally on the weekend after a club night). So, if you are posting off your renewal it will generally be quicker for you to send the form and cheque direct to the HQ address in Horley rather than to the Branch Membership Secretary.

Don't worry about the money as the Branch receives the same amount per person regardless of the method used to renew.

Alternatively, you can renew on-line via the club's website: <http://www.tomcc.org/Membership.aspx>; paying by credit card or PayPal account.

And if you do send your renewal to me make the cheque out to Triumph Owners MCC and not to Ian Sargent!

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## Northants Branch Info and News

Non-club members are welcome at all events unless specifically marked otherwise. Listen out for details at club nights, or check with committee members beforehand in case of short-notice alterations or cancellations. Except where indicated, club nights start at 8pm.

	<b>Events List</b>
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>Triumph Day at Jacks Hill Cafe.</b> Part of the Branch's 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. 10am-3pm
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Open Evening &amp; Barbecue</b> at The Crown from 8pm.
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Jacks Hill Cafe Bike Night. Towcester.
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Evening Run to</b> Norton Owners Club. Depart 7.15pm from Premier Inn at Junction 7 of A14 (Kettering)
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Evening Run to</b> The Two Boats, Long Itchington, CV47 9QZ. Depart 6.45pm from Cobblers Car Park, Sixfields, Northampton.
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Wrinklies Run</b> to The Royal Oak, Walgrave (at one time our Branch HQ). 10.45am from Pure Triumph
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Bikesafe at Rockingham raceway 10am-5pm. <a href="http://www.bikesafe.co.uk/locate-a-force/national-show-track-experience/">http://www.bikesafe.co.uk/locate-a-force/national-show-track-experience/</a>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown from 8pm
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	<b>Ton-Up Day</b> , Jacks Hill Cafe, Towcester. Talk to Phil Barton if you want to put your Triumph on display.
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Founders Day Rally, Stanford Hall.
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Evening Run to</b> The Fox Inn, Hallaton, LE16 8UJ. 6.45pm from Pure Triumph.
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown from 8pm
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Ride-In to</b> East Carlton Transport Gala.
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Evening Run to</b> Bedford Triumph Owners, Red Lion, Wilstead.
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Evening Run to</b> The Wharf Inn, Fenny Compton. 6.45pm from Cobblers car park, Sixfields, Northampton
Su n 13 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Branch Display at</b> Brackley Festival of Motorcycling. <a href="http://www.brackleyfestivalofmotorcycling.co.uk/">http://www.brackleyfestivalofmotorcycling.co.uk/</a>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown from 8pm
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Evening Run to</b> Oakley Motorcycle Club
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Ride0In to</b> Stilton Motorcycle Show (organised by Peterborough Triumph Owners)
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown from 8pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Evening Run to</b> Cowpers Oak, Weston Underwood. 7.17pm from Pure Triumph
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Club Night</b> at The Crown from 8pm
Sat-Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Pistons &amp; Props Show</b> Sywell Aerodrome
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b> at AMF Bowl, Wellingborough

# Northants Branch Info and News

## Branch HQ:

The Crown, Senwick Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1NJ. The pub is on the south-east side of Wellingborough, a 5 minute ride from the A45 and the southern section of the A509. It's only a few hundred yards away from Pure Triumph, so if you know where the dealer's showroom is our HQ will be easy to find.

Meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, starting at 8pm.

***Please park motorcycles in that section of the car park to the right of the pub's front door.***

## Pure Triumph:

Our local Triumph dealer is based at The Embankment, Wellingborough, NN8 1LD. The company's website can be found at [www.puretriumph.co.uk](http://www.puretriumph.co.uk).

*On production of a current Triumph Owners membership card, Pure Triumph at Wellingborough will give a 10% discount on the following items: Clothing, Oxford Products, Helmets, Oil products, Labour on Servicing.*

## The Branch on the Internet:

Our website can be found at: [www.northantstomcc.org.uk](http://www.northantstomcc.org.uk). Most pages are public but there is one small section that is restricted to branch members only, accessed via the password that is advised separately.

Steve Houghton has made a few changes to the website recently. If you have any content for it please have a word with him.

We also have Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/northantstomcc/)

If you go on any branch events please make a conscious effort to take a photo (high quality mobile phone OK) and send it to Sarge. This will ensure the newsletter and website have something to show when writing the reports.

## Other Internet Links:

Triumph Owners MCC national website: [www.tomcc.org](http://www.tomcc.org)

Triumph Owners MCC events website: [www.tomccevents.co.uk](http://www.tomccevents.co.uk)

Triumph Owners Clothing website: [www.tomccstore.com](http://www.tomccstore.com)

The club also has a page on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/4526704577/).

British Motorcyclists Federation: [www.bmf.co.uk](http://www.bmf.co.uk)

Triumph Motorcycles: [www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk](http://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk)



2012 Bike Show at our old HQ: The George at Wilby.



# Northants Branch Info and News

## Northants Branch Clothing Range

The range of Northants Branch clothing: T-Shirt, Polo Shirt, Sweatshirt, Hoodie, Fleece, Business Shirt and Baseball Cap; can now be purchased on-line rather than having to wait until the next club night. Each item can include the ordinary branch logo or the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary one shown here:

Some items can also be done with a large back-print for an additional fee.



To order click on this link:

[www.customkit.co.uk/northants-triumph-owners-club-52-c.asp](http://www.customkit.co.uk/northants-triumph-owners-club-52-c.asp)

## Ordering instructions:

On the web page, click on the Garment you want to purchase then fill in the size, badge version and back print (if required).

Click on ADD TO CART

In the Shopping Cart page double-check your order then GO TO CHECKOUT

One more chance to check your order or Checkout Securely

Enter your e-mail address and password to set up an account

You can now go to > Delivery Details > Order Summary > Payment Details

At the Payment Details you will see 3 Options:

Pay Pal-Click and Pay > Go to Order Complete

Credit Card-Click and Pay > Go to Order complete

Debit Card-Click and Pay > Go to Order Complete

Or you can pay by phone during office hours using your credit card, you will see > Telephone > Click here and the order will be placed and ask you to phone 01327 311125 (office hours) and make your payment. You will be asked if you want Delivery or Collect

When your order has been placed you get an order confirmation, with unique number to quote, which will be copied to you in an e-mail.

If your order gets mucked up during all this, click on Cancel to return to the main Custom Kit page and start again. Select Club wear and then select Northants TOMCC.

## The Accidental Racer – A Most Unlikely Drag Bike



Since about 2004 I have enjoyed participating in Run What Ya Brung events at Santa Pod Raceway. At first, I was using my Triumph TT600 but when this was unfortunately stolen, I switched to using my 1991 Triumph Trophy 1200,



a big heavy bike, over 20 years old and initially running 12.5 seconds over the quarter. Over the next few years with only tweaks to suspension and gearing, I had the old bus running consistent 11.5 second quarters with a personal best of 11.36 @ 124 mph. I wanted to keep the bike fairly standard as it was my every day transport and holiday barge, making regular trips through Europe and down the In-laws in Limoges.

## The Accidental Racer – A Most Unlikely Drag Bike



2015 saw a change of job and a 150 mile commute. Not convinced a 24 year old bike with 60k on the clock would be up to the job, the search was on for a new bike. It needed to do over 50 mpg, be all day comfy, reliable and be relatively cheap to service. Around 20 test rides later a decision was made and in April I took delivery of a shiny new Triumph Tiger Explorer 'Globebuster' special edition.

***"You can wave goodbye to those round spherical things if you ever take that on track"***

Apparently Mrs G doesn't seem to understand. "Of course not dear" I replied with fingers, arms, legs and (had it been possible) testicles crossed.





## The Accidental Racer – A Most Unlikely Drag Bike

Throughout 2015 I continued RWYB events on the Trophy and entered several Straightliners events, running in the 11.10 second class. I wasn't quite quick enough to be really competitive, but I found a really great sprinting community offering affordable racing and great camaraderie.

Most events are held on old airfield sites with a couple of rounds at York Raceway and Santa Pod.



One of the great things about Straightliners meetings is that there is a class to suit whatever bike you run. Qualifying is open pit lane and you can get as many runs in as time permits, with the top four in each racing for the honours at the end of the meeting.

Of particular interest to TOMCC are the classic classes which attract a good selection of Triumph and assorted other British engined classic drag bikes - John Hobbs still regularly competing on the Hobbitt.

Check them out at <https://straightlinersonline.co.uk/>

or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StraightlinersNewsChannel/>

At the last meeting of the year I managed to demolish second gear on the Trophy. Bugger. Ah well. At least I have a few months to get it sorted before the new season.

***"You'd better take the Tiger then"***



So how do I switch the traction control off?      Sorted!



## The Accidental Racer – A Most Unlikely Drag Bike

2016 also saw the first year of a new class at Santa Pod and Shakespeare County Raceway - ET Bike. An entry class for bikes that didn't fit into the 8.50 or 9.50 bike classes - and a class that would allow street legal bikes to compete on equal terms with minimal modifications.

The Trophy was still in bits at the start of the season - the spare engine I had in the garage needed work too - so it was decided to run a few RWYBs and the first couple of rounds of Straightliners on the Tiger to get some consistency on times in preparation for the ET Bike series. ET bike having the advantage of being able to dial in your predicted ET and not have to run to 11.10 seconds. With the Tiger so far running 11.5 was unlikely to be competitive in Straightliners.

Or so I thought.....

Straightliners round 1. A cold weekend at Santa Pod and qualified in the top 4 with an 11.26. A first round win saw me into the final and my reaction times over the weekend meant I had a good chance of doing well in the final. A massive wheelie off the line and an 11.3 second run soon put paid to any delusions of grandeur, but the scene was set.

I was second again at round 2

ET bike at Santa Pod at Easter was rained off after day 1 and I had qualified 8th. Decisions had to be made and I decided to concentrate on Straightliners and the 4 Santa Pod rounds of ET Bike and skip the rounds at Shaky.

Back to Straightliners at York and East Kirkby and at rounds 3,4,and 5 I was second again. My ETs by this time were now consistently in the 11.2 bracket and due to some good luck on my part and some of my main rivals breaking out I was now within 4 points of the lead of the championship.

Round 6. Lancaster Raceway, East Kirkby. The Tiger likes it here and was immediately running in the 11.2s again. And then it happened. 11.12 @ 121 mph. Followed by an 11.17 with a bit of pedalling at the top just in case. Then at last, the elusive race win after running the final twice due to faulty lights the first time.



**So much for anti-wheelie technology....**

# The Accidental Racer – A Most Unlikely Drag Bike

## I only went and did it!

Another win and second place finishes in the remaining rounds meant I won the 11.10 championship. What I didn't realise until the awards presentation, was that I had amassed enough points over the season to finish third overall in all the bike classes. On an overgrown trail bike!



In the ET Bike championship at Santa Pod after an average performance in round 2, in round 3 at the National Finals event (and penultimate round for the bike classes) I qualified well and was runner up at the event. This moved me up to 5th in the overall standings, but I had already made the decision not to run at the final event of the year as it was being run on the same weekend as the Straightliners final meeting of the year.



So there you have it. My 2015 Triumph Tiger Explorer is a championship winning drag bike!  
A most unlikely drag bike.

# The Accidental Racer – A Most Unlikely Drag Bike

For 2017 I am only running the ACU ET Bike championship at Santa Pod and Shakespeare County Raceway. After four events from seven, I am currently 5th overall, but less than one round of eliminations from third place. I will send a write up of the season at a later date.

## The remaining rounds are:

Shakespeare County Raceway, August Bank Holiday weekend.

Santa Pod National Finals, September 23rd and 24th.

You can keep up with live race reports at [www.eurodragster.com](http://www.eurodragster.com) or watch on the webcam which has coverage of most meetings at <http://www.eurodragstereventcoverage.com/live/webcam/>

And for those of you that have access to Facebook, please visit my page 'The Accidental Racer' to keep up to date with my exploits.

*As a footnote, I really have to say a massive thank you to Kay (Mrs G), who has been totally supportive of my exploits and has helped me to feed my two wheeled addiction over the years and always keeps me well supplied with bacon/cake/coffee at race meetings.*

**Dave Grundy.**

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## 2017 Branch Concours d'Elegance

The 21<sup>st</sup> June Club Night saw the annual Concours d'Elegance for Triumphs owned by Northants Branch members. The results were...

	Classic Class		Hinckley Class	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ralph Love	T110	Paul Humphreys	Thunderbird Sport
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Caullay	T140 Bonneville	John Richards	Legend
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Steve Rattley	T120 Bonneville	Jonh Gibbs	Trophy3





## 2017 Branch Concours d'Elegance



2<sup>nd</sup> in the Hinckley Class: John Richards's Legend.

3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hinckley Class: John Gibbs's Trophy3 John Player Special.



2<sup>nd</sup> in the Classic Class: John Caullay's T140 Bonneville.

3<sup>rd</sup> in the Classic Class: Steve Rattley's T120 Bonneville.

